

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 2, 2009. Claims 37 to 39 and 41 to 44 remain pending in the application, with Claim 40 having been cancelled herein. Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, the preamble has been amended to reflect a non-transitory computer readable storage medium. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 37 to 39, 41, 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,495 (Bernklau-Halvor), and Claims 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bernklau in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0085223 (Bigi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The claims are directed to a client terminal that displays the status of accessories for a connected printer (e.g., ink remaining amount). In the claims, the client terminal acquires accessory information from the printer, including ink remaining amount and a printer driver language. To display the status of the ink remaining amount, the client terminal needs to acquire screen display data. Thus, the client terminal transmits the acquired accessory information to a transfer server by adding the accessory information to a first address of the transfer server. The transfer server designates a service providing apparatus based on the printer driver language, and notifies the client of a second address for the service providing apparatus. The second address has the accessory information added to it by the transfer server. The client accesses the service providing apparatus using

the second address with the accessory information added thereto. The service providing apparatus then generates screen information on the accessories (e.g., depicting the ink remaining amount) and transmits it to the client terminal for display.

Referring specifically to the claim language, Claim 37 is directed to an online service system comprising a client terminal, a transfer server, and a plurality of service providing apparatuses each capable of communicating via a network, wherein the client terminal is connected with a printer, and the client terminal comprises an acquisition unit that acquires, as accessory information, ink remaining amount of the printer and a printer driver language of the printer while the printer is executing printing, a first transmission unit that transmits the acquired accessory information to the transfer server by using a first address for accessing the transfer server, the accessory information being added to the first address, a reception unit that receives, from the transfer server, a second address to which the accessory information is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server, and a second transmission unit that transmits the accessory information to the designated service providing apparatus by using the second address, wherein the transfer server comprises an address generation unit that designates one of the plurality of service providing apparatuses based on the printer driver language of the printer among the accessory information added to the first address, and generates the second address by adding the accessory information to an address for accessing the designated service providing apparatus; and a notification unit that notifies the client terminal of the second address, and wherein the service providing apparatus comprises a screen information generation unit that generates screen information of the accessories of the printer based on the accessory information added to the second

address, when the access by using the second address is received from the client terminal, and a screen information transmission unit that transmits the generated screen information to the client terminal.

Claim 41 is directed to the client terminal aspect of system Claim 37, while Claims 43 and 44 are method and computer medium claims that substantially correspond to Claim 41.

The art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a client terminal acquiring, as accessory information ink remaining amount of a connected printer and a printer driver language of the printer while the printer is executing printing, transmitting the acquired accessory information to a transfer server by using a first address for accessing the transfer server, the accessory information being added to the first address, receiving, from the transfer server, a second address to which the accessory information added to the first address is added, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server based on the printer driver language of the printer among the accessory information, and receiving screen information on the accessories of the printer from the service providing apparatus when the client accesses the service providing apparatus using the second address.

Bernklau-Halvor discloses that the printer 14 receives support information by using a link transmitted from a support server 110. Specifically, in Bernklau-Halvor, a printer 14 (computer 28 of the printer 14) collects diagnostic information (use information and state). The printer 14 accesses a support server 110 to transmit the diagnostic

information to the support server 110. The support server 110 searches support information based on the diagnostic information, and transmits a link for the support information to the printer 14. The printer 14 selects the link in response to a user operation to receive the support information. That is, when the user encounters a problem, the user selects a printer driver 42 to request a solution for the printer problem from the support server. When the support server 12 causes the printer 14 to execute a diagnostic function, the printer generates diagnostic data to transmit to the support server 12. The support server 12 analyzes the diagnostic data and then outputs a link to a solution method. Thus, the printer 14 performs a self-diagnosis in response to an instruction from the support server 12 and transmits the diagnostic data to the support server 12 by using a web server function. On the other hand, in the claims, the printer acquires the accessory information (ink amount and driver language) while the printer is executing printing. Moreover, in Bernklau-Halvor, when the printer performs the self-diagnosis, it transmits the diagnostic data directly to the support server 12, which in the context of the claims may, at best, be seen to correspond to the service providing apparatus, but not the transfer server. Therefore, Bernklau-Halvor is not seen to teach the features of the client transmitting the first address to which the accessory information has been added to the transfer server, and the transfer server then designating a service providing apparatus based on the printer driver language and transmitting a second address for accessing the designated service providing apparatus, to which the accessory information has been added, back to the client. Furthermore, the support server 12 merely transmits a link to a solution back to the printer 14, but the link does not have the accessory information added thereto and therefore, cannot be seen to correspond to the claimed second address. Additionally, the link does not

include screen information of the accessories (ink remaining amount), and if the user were to access the link, the accessory information also would not be displayed. Accordingly, Bernklau-Halvor is not seen to teach the features of the claims.

Bigi is merely seen to disclose a printing system that displays a document and a user can select a position on the document for the placement of staples. Bigi is not, however, seen to teach anything that, when combined with Bernklau-Halvor, would have resulted in the features of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 37 to 39 and 41 to 44 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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